

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHJM #1487 1011442
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 111442Z APR 06
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1514
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 001487

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE AND IPA; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DORAN/MUSTAFA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/07/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#)

SUBJECT: NABIL AMR DESCRIBES HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENTIAL MEDIA
ADVISOR

Classified By: Consul General Jake Walles. Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Former PA Minister of Information Nabil Amr told PolChief on April 6 that he had been appointed as media advisor in the President's office. (Note: In an April 10 meeting, President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) said he had yet to officially appoint any assistants, but planned to do so. End note.)

¶2. (C) Amr said his first move would be to end incitement in Palestinian media and, toward that end, he intended to develop a new television station in Ramallah to counter Hamas broadcasting coming out of Gaza. He said such a plan needed support and that Abu Mazen's planned trip to Europe at the end of April would include requests for financing for the Presidency and Fatah.

¶3. (C) Amr said that he was considering a number of ways to bolster Abu Mazen's public profile, and that he thought that some of the media lessons from Lebanon could be applied to PA areas. For example, he thought it would be possible to gather crowds of tens of thousands of Abu Mazen supporters in places like Hebron. The televised images of these types of rallies would show to Palestinians and the world that Hamas faced a real challenger for public support.

¶4. (C) Amr thought the projected makeup of the incoming Israeli cabinet provided an opportunity for Israeli-Palestinian discussions, and urged the U.S. to support these talks. He predicted imminent difficulties facing the Hamas-led government and said that Abu Mazen would be the only alternative. As such, he needed immediate support.

¶5. (C) Amr said he would be traveling to Washington in early May to participate in a program at the Woodrow Wilson center. He asked for assistance in meeting with State Department officials about the media strategy being pursued by Hamas and his plans to develop and deliver a more positive internal Palestinian media message. Action request: consideration of appropriate, public diplomacy-related calls on senior State Department officials.
WALLES